

- (c) a reducing compound represented by the following formula (1), and
- (d) a binder:

Formula (1):  $Q^1-NHNH-R^1$

wherein  $Q^1$  represents a 5- to 7-membered unsaturated ring bonding to  $NHNH-R^1$  at a carbon atom, and  $R^1$  represents a substituted carbamoyl group.

3. (Amended) The photothermographic material according to claim 1, wherein, in the compound represented by the formula (1),  $Q^1$  represents a substituted phenyl group in which the sum of Hammett  $\sigma$  p values of the substituents on the phenyl group is 1.6 or more.

4. (Amended) The photothermographic material according to claim 3, wherein, in the compound represented by the formula (1),  $Q^1$  represents a substituted phenyl group in which the sum of Hammett  $\sigma$  p values of the substituents on the phenyl group is 1.6 or more,  $R^1$  is a substituted carbamoyl group represented by  $-C(=O)-NH-R^{11}$  and  $R^{11}$  is an alkyl or aryl group having 1-10 carbon atoms.

5. (Amended) The photothermographic material according to claim 1, wherein, in the compound represented by the formula (1),  $Q^1$

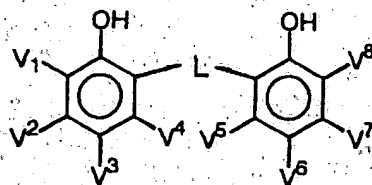
represents a 5- to 7-membered unsaturated heteroring bonding to  $\text{NHNH-R}^1$  at a carbon atom.

6. (Amended) The photothermographic material according to claim 5, wherein, in the compound represented by the formula (1),  $Q^1$  represents a quinazoline ring bonding to  $\text{NHNH-R}^1$  at a carbon atom.

7. (Amended) The photothermographic material according to claim 6, wherein, in the compound represented by the formula (1),  $Q^1$  represents a quinazoline ring bonding to  $\text{NHNH-R}^1$  at a carbon atom,  $R^1$  is a substituted carbamoyl group represented by  $-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{NH-R}^{11}$  and  $R^{11}$  is an alkyl or aryl group having 1-10 carbon atoms.

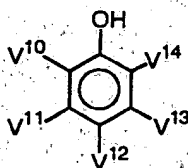
8. (Amended) The photothermographic material according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by the formula (1) does not function as an ultrahigh contrast agent.

9. (Amended) The photothermographic material according to Claim 1, which further contains (e) a compound represented by the following formula (2) or (3) on the same surface of the support:



Formula (2):

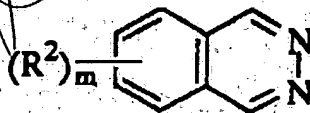
wherein  $V^1$  to  $V^8$  each independently represent hydrogen atom or a substituent, and L represents a bridging group consisting of  $-CH(V^9)-$  or  $-S-$  where  $V^9$  represents hydrogen atom or a substituent:



Formula (3):

wherein  $V^{10}$  to  $V^{14}$  each independently represent hydrogen atom or a substituent.

12. (Amended) The photothermographic material according to Claim 1, which further comprises (f) a compound represented by the formula (4) on the same surface of the support:



Formula (4):

wherein, in the formula (4),  $R^2$  represents hydrogen atom or a monovalent substituent, m represents an integer of 1 to 6 where  $(R^2)_m$  means that 1-6 of Y independently exist on the phthalazine ring, and when m is 2 or more, adjacent two of  $R^2$  may form an aliphatic ring or an aromatic ring.

13. (Amended) The photothermographic material according to Claim 12, wherein, in the formula (4),  $R^2$  represents a monovalent substituent, and m represents an integer of 1 to 6.

Please add the following claims:

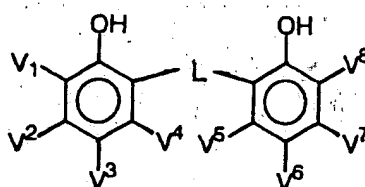
--17. (New) A photothermographic material comprising

- (a) a photosensitive silver halide,
- (b) a reducible silver salt,
- (c) a reducing compound represented by the formula (1) below,
- (d) a binder, and
- (e) a compound represented by the formula (2) or (3) below,

wherein the amount of the compound represented by the formula (1) is 0.1-10 mole % of the amount of the compound represented by the formula (2) or (3),

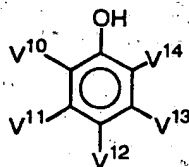
Formula (1):  $Q^1-NHNH-R^1$

wherein  $Q^1$  represents a 5- to 7-membered unsaturated ring bonding to  $NHNH-R^1$  at a carbon atom, and  $R^1$  represents a carbamoyl group, an acyl group, an alkoxy carbonyl group, an aryloxy carbonyl group, a sulfonyl group or a sulfamoyl group, provided that when  $R^1$  is propyl carbamoyl group,  $Q^1$  is not 2,3,5,6-tetrachloro-4-cyanophenyl group,



Formula (2):

wherein  $V^1$  to  $V^8$  each independently represent hydrogen atom or a substituent, and  $L$  represents a bridging group consisting of  $-CH(V^9)-$  or  $-S-$  where  $V^9$  represents hydrogen atom or a substituent,



Formula (3):

wherein  $V^{10}$  to  $V^{14}$  each independently represent hydrogen atom or a substituent.

18. (New) The photothermographic material according to Claim 17, wherein, in the compound represented by the formula (1),  $Q^1$  represents a substituted phenyl group in which the sum of Hammett  $\sigma$  p values of the substituents on the phenyl group is 1.6 or more.

19. (New) The photothermographic material according to Claim 17, wherein, in the compound represented by the formula (1),  $Q^1$  represents a substituted phenyl group in which the sum of Hammett  $\sigma$  p values of the substituents on the phenyl group is 1.6 or more,  $R^1$  is a substituted carbamoyl group represented by  $-C(=O)-NH-R^{11}$  and  $R^{11}$  is an alkyl or aryl group having 1-10 carbon atoms.

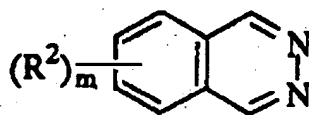
20. (New) The photothermographic material according to Claim 17, wherein, in the compound represented by the formula (1),  $Q^1$  represents a 5- to 7-membered unsaturated heteroring bonding to  $NHNH-R^1$  at a carbon atom.

21. (New) The photothermographic material according to Claim 20, wherein, in the compound represented by the formula (1),  $Q^1$  represents a quinazoline ring bonding to  $NHNH-R^1$  at a carbon atom.

22. (New) The photothermographic material according to Claim 21, wherein, in the compound represented by the formula (1),  $Q^1$

represents a quinazoline ring bonding to  $\text{NHNH-R}^1$  at a carbon atom,  $\text{R}^1$  is a substituted carbamoyl group represented by  $-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{NH-R}^{11}$  and  $\text{R}^{11}$  is an alkyl group or an aryl group having 1-10 carbon atoms.

23. (New) The photothermographic material according to Claim 17, which further comprises (f) a compound represented by the formula (4) on the same surface of the support:



Formula (4):

wherein, in the formula (4),  $\text{R}^2$  represents hydrogen atom or a monovalent substituent,  $m$  represents an integer of 1 to 6 where  $(\text{R}^2)_m$  means that 1-6 of  $\text{Y}$  independently exist on the phthalazine ring, and when  $m$  is 2 or more, adjacent two of  $\text{R}^2$  may form an aliphatic ring or an aromatic ring.

24. (New) The photothermographic material according to Claim 23, wherein, in the formula (4),  $\text{R}^2$  represents a monovalent substituent, and  $m$  represents an integer of 1 to 6.

25. (New) The photothermographic material according to Claim 17, wherein (b) the reducible silver salt is a silver salt of a long chain aliphatic carboxylic acid.

26. (New) A method for forming images, which comprises developing a photothermographic material according to Claim 17 by heating to form a silver image.

27. (New) The method for forming images according to Claim 26, wherein the heat development is performed at a temperature of 100-117°C.--

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